

Dear Federal Communications Commission

I would like to file the following comments for inclusion in the upcoming “Notice of Public Rulemaking” on the issue of “Video Franchises” (NPRM 05-311).

The existing local franchising system has served our communities well for many years. It allows local communities to demand accountability from telecommunications companies, it provides fair compensation for use of the public rights of way, and allows for the operation of Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) TV – including Manhattan’s Public Access TV center Manhattan Neighborhood Network, where I have been a community producer and occasional staff member for many years.

Public Access TV (and other PEG TV) is a wonderful part of our community. It allows community members to have a voice in local affairs. And it allows viewers to see programs about the issues that matter to them. This locally-made local-issue programming is not available on any other channels! In the Fall Public Access TV in Manhattan provided full coverage of local council election-debates. It offers regular programming on pressing local development issues, such as housing and jobs. And it offers some of the best arts and cultural programming available anywhere on cable TV. I strongly urge the FCC to ensure that franchising rules are not changed in a way that will harm the operation of PEG TV in Manhattan or in any other community around the country.

Yours sincerely

Lyell Davies